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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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## INFORMATION REPORT

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1. On 1 April 1953, the 30-man East German delegation that had been at the Utrecht fair returned to Berlin. The delegation consisted of several representatives of the Kammer fuer Bussenhandel (Chamber for Foreign Trade) (KFA) under the leadership of Guenther Appelt of the Main Department for Advertising and Fairs. Appelt is about 20 years old, 172 centimeters tall, slim figure, black hair parted on the left, dark eyes. Also part of the delegation were various GIA representatives and some personnel from the Ministry of Foreign and Domestic Trade (MIA). One of these was (fnu) Uerner, Department Head for Trade Policies in MIA. The MIA members went as representatives of the KFA to maintain the fiction of the KFA's supra-state (ueberstaatliche) position.
2. On 2 April 1953, Dr. Moser, president of the Gesellschaft fuer Osthandel (GLO), visited the KFA to get information on the East-West Trade Conference to be held in Geneva in April 1953. He wanted to know if the KFA was interested in attending the conference and asked questions on East-West trade in general.
3. The member of the Iranian delegation who remained behind in the East Berlin Charite hospital left for Hamburg in late March. 1/ He returned to East Berlin during the first week of April and visited the KFA. When he left, he did not give his forwarding address in Hamburg, but requested that his mail be forwarded to him through a business acquaintance. He stated that D. Shirinlou and Dr. Baftari, who had spent almost a year travelling through the satellite countries, would come to East Berlin in May 1953 and would come to the KFA to discuss the conclusion of business transactions and participation in the Leipzig Fair.
4. The KFA and East German foreign trade circles are alarmed over the latest US attempt to control East-West trade, namely, the regulation concerning the use of the label "Made in Germany", which is to be restricted to West Berlin and the Federal Republic as of June 1953. East German foreign trade circles regard this as a drastic measure which will cripple East German trade with the Western countries. As a result the attempt to strengthen trade relations with the under-developed areas of Asia and Africa will be stopped up.
5. With the dissolution of the Industrie und Handelskammern (Chamber for Industry and Trade) of East Germany in March 1953, the KFA has opened

25X1A

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SECRET

25X1A

- 2 -

branches in Chemnitz, Leipzig, Dresden, Magdeburg, Halle, Schwerin, Erfurt and Jena. These branch offices are staffed by four or five of the most "progressive" members of the former Industrie- und Handelskammern. It will be their job to maintain the foreign business relations of the dissolved Kammern and to channel the trade formerly handled by the Industrie- und Handelskammern to the KFA.

6. On 6 May 1953 the KFA is to submit suggestions for delegates to participate in a delegation composed of KFA, NIA, and Deutsche Notenbank representatives. The delegation is to go to Argentina to look into the possibility of furthering trade relations between East Germany and Argentina.
7. On 10 April 1953 there was to be a meeting in the Chinese Room of the Johannisshof Hotel in East Berlin. Representatives of the KFA and of all the NIA's were to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to constitute the statutes of the KFA.
8. The Deutsche Handels Gesellschaft on Luisenstrasse carries on illegal East-West trade similar to that carried on by Novum<sup>2</sup> and Meletex,<sup>3</sup> etc. (Fau) Foertner is the director of the concern.

25X1A

1/ [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED]

25X1A

2/ [REDACTED] Comments: Possibly identical with Novum Handelsgesellschaft mbH, Berlin NW 7, Friedrichstrasse 133, which is listed in the 1952 Berlin telephone directory.

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